

Climate Change Goal Setting
Summary of Framework and Process
Utah Climate Policy Symposium 1
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Form: The structure of the goal.

- Percent reduction from some point in time to some point(s) in the future
- Tonnage reduction from some point in time to some point(s) in the future
- Reduction in the rate of increase
- Reduction in emissions per some unit (e.g. per capita, per dollar GDP, etc.); also called “intensity”

Timing: Start point, end point, and bench marks

- The date by which the goal is achieved.
- Some forms of a goal require a baseline year or date to compare to the end value. Reduction of X% or X tons per year compared to 1990 or 2000, etc.
- A goal could be structured with milestones enroute to the final value. Intermediate values could be established for each 5, 10, or 15 year interval before a goal set for the more distant future like 2030 or 2050. Examples are the Acid Rain Program and Regional Haze program for Sulfur Dioxide in the West.

Type of Goal: Regulatory; Non-legal, but Formal/Binding; Voluntary

- Regulatory: Established by law, regulation or legal settlement with legal sanctions for failure to meet the goal.
- Non-legal, but Formal: Targets might be set by Executive Order, signed agreements, etc.
- Voluntary: Publicly announced, but non binding. May or may not be tracked.
- Hybrid: Goal or Milestone is legal, but failure to meet results in more formal regulatory system rather than sanctions. Example: 309 SO₂ Milestones for Regional Haze in the West.

Applicability:

- Government only or Public and Private
- Single or multiple sector: Electric utilities, Utilities and Transportation
- Economy-wide
- Geographically limited.

How Set: The Process.

- Fully Analytically Driven. Policy makers get detailed information for the policy outcome and set goal and program parameters based strictly on the data. Rare since complete and certain data are not possible in the time and resources available.
- Fully Policy Driven. Little or no data are used for the decision. Set the goal first and then decide how to get there. Also Rare.
- Mixed Process. Some data is available, but could be somewhat to highly uncertain. Data inform, but do not drive the decision. Example: 309 SO₂ Milestones for Regional Haze in the West.